

Savor
Washington™

SKAGIT VALLEY BOUNTY

SKAGIT VALLEY



HIGHLIGHTS

The Skagit Valley is a Leader in Agricultural Production:

- Over 80 different crops are grown in Skagit County, including 50 percent of the world's beet and spinach seed
- More tulip, daffodil and iris bulbs are produced in Skagit County than in any county in the U.S.
- Skagit County is the state's leading strawberry producer
- Approximately 95 percent of the red potatoes grown in Washington State are grown in the Skagit Valley

Each Year the Skagit Valley Grows Over 80 Different Crops on 93,000 Acres Including:

- 4 million pounds of raspberries
- 1,500 acres of tulips, daffodils, irises and bulbs
- 300 million pounds of red, yellow and white potatoes
- 1,400 acres of broccoli (90 percent of the region's fresh market, spring to fall)

Snow Goose Produce on Fir Island might be known for superb organic produce, but they are famous for their gigantic ice cream cones, made from fresh and local ingredients.

A weekend spent in the Skagit Valley provides an array of options for exploring your culinary senses.

Bring a hearty appetite and save room in the car for goodies to take home.

Extend your weekend stay by combining your trip with a getaway to Whidbey Island or San Juan Islands. This itinerary can also be traveled in reverse.

washington
The State™



DAY 1

The **Skagit Valley** is one of the most fertile regions in Washington State, and with a drive through this location, you are sure to see why. A lush valley bursting in technicolor welcomes spring in an unforgettable way. Tourists, artists and nature lovers are drawn to the annual **Skagit Valley Tulip Festival** during the month of April. Summer's crops spring to life with grape and berry vineyards, potatoes, alfalfa and other fruits and vegetables. In early fall, farmers set up shop along the country roads, selling their fresh harvest directly from their trucks. Winter brings wildlife viewers by the hundreds to catch the flurry of snow geese and hawks migrating to this fertile land.

Try some of the best apples in Washington State from **Perkins Variety Apples** in Sedro-Woolley. This family-owned farm is committed to producing organic, high-quality tree fruits like apples and pears. Sample delicious cider or step next door to the Perkins family winery, **Eagle Haven Winery**. Enjoy free tastings of Eagle Haven handcrafted wines in the garden area. Old growth, hand split cedar arches allow a perfect view into the orchards and vineyards.

Stop in for a treat at **Snow Goose Produce** located on Fir Island. Offering the best in organic produce and local fare such as fresh and smoked seafood, baked breads, artisan cheeses and wines. Even the ice cream, served in huge homemade waffle cones, is local, made with natural ingredients from Lopez Island Creamery and Edaleen.

Growing a wide variety of organic vegetables, fruits and flowers, **Hedlin Farms** has a farm stand located south of the Pioneer Monument in LaConner. Hedlin Farms is known for quality produce, served in many local restaurants, including Adrift in Anacortes.

FRESH SHEET:

Weather determines the availability of local products but Washington State farmers are always working hard to offer tasty products year-round. See what's fresh now:

Spring (April – May)

Asparagus, Bok Choi, Broccoli, Cabbage, Herbs, Young Garlic, Lettuce, Mushrooms, Nettles, Peas, Radishes, Rhubarb, Salad Greens, Spinach

Summer (June – August)

Apricots, Blackberries, Blueberries, Carrots, Celery, Chard, Cherries, Corn (Sweet), Cucumbers, Garlic, Gooseberries, Green Beans, Jerusalem Artichokes, Melons, Nectarines, Onions (Sweet), Peaches, Bell Peppers, Chile Peppers, Plums, Raspberries, Squash, Strawberries, Tomatoes

Fall (September–November)

Apples, Blackberries, Blueberries, Brussels Sprouts, Collards, Carrots, Celery, Corn (Sweet), Cranberries, Garlic, Garbanzos, Grapes, Kale, Lentils, Pears, Peppers, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Tomatoes, Winter Squash

Winter (December–March)

Apples, Beets, Carrots, Chard, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Mushrooms, Onions, Parsnips, Pears, Potatoes, Turnips, Winter Squash

Exceptional Meat, Seafood, Dairy & Preserves are available year-round.

Enjoy a bountiful lunch at **Seeds Bistro and Bar** in LaConner. Serving delicious seasonal fruits and vegetables from local farms, free range chicken, fresh seafood, grass-fed beef, naturally nested eggs and more. Save room for the delectable desserts.

Stroll through the waterfront village of **LaConner** with its distinctive Northwest art galleries and local boutiques. Visit **LaConner Quilt & Textile Museum** featuring three stories of quilts and textiles that range from traditional to contemporary, with a focus on works from the Northwest.

Nell Thorn Restaurant & Pub offers an unforgettable quality dining experience built on locally sourced foods. Seafood lovers will adore the “Beach Bowl” packed with mussels, clams, prawns and finfish poached in a herb and fennel seed-scented tomato broth.

After dinner, drive to Mount Vernon’s historic **Lincoln Theatre**. From films, to plays, to concerts, the Lincoln is central to the cultural life of the Skagit Valley.

Stay the night on La Conner's only waterfront hotel, **LaConner Channel Lodge**. Luxurious accommodations and Northwest styling make this a truly memorable lodging experience.

DAY 2

Calico Cupboard Café & Bakery is a longtime Skagit County fixture, known for generous breakfasts and hefty cinnamon rolls. This award-winning homey café serves breakfast and lunch with locally sourced foods and of course, baked items made from scratch.



© 2010 Steve Campbell

A view from Farm To Market Road, which travels through the heart of Skagit Valley farmland.

TIPS:

Tips for Bringing Your Bounty Home:

Cool It - If possible, bring a cooler for fragile produce. Gel pacs, block ice and bagged ice can help keep your produce, meat and dairy products cool or frozen while you travel. Not tomatoes however – they lose flavor when chilled!

Buy Produce Last - If you plan on sightseeing and making additional stops while visiting the Valley, buy perishable items last. Also, buy the most fragile produce such as ripe tomatoes, cherries, or apricots last.

Tips for visiting farms:

- Wear closed-toe shoes and clothes that you don't mind getting dirty
- In the summer, go in the morning when it's cooler
- Remember sunscreen, a hat and water
- Use hand sanitizer after each farm visit so that you can eat each harvest along the way



The Breadfarm in Edison is not only a local favorite but also fans drive as far as British Columbia for loaves of the organic, fresh baked bread here.

Commune with the wildlife by taking a walk, run or bike ride on the **Padilla Bay Dike Trail**, a flat 2.3-mile trail through the Padilla Bay Reserve.

Drive the **Farm to Market Road** for numerous opportunities to sightsee, visit farms, market stands and specialty shops along the way. Sample organic cheeses, yogurt and meat at **Samish Bay Cheese** in Bow.

Stop at the big red barn at **Rosabella's Garden Bakery** for apple cider donuts, the famous 5-lb. apple pie and other treats. At the **BreadFarm** artisan bakery you'll find the dedicated crew punching dough at a big table behind a display counter filled with golden-crusting delights. Discover the best glass-bottled milk products at **Golden Glen Creamery**, plus take a tour and visit the cows, heifers, goats, chickens and turkeys on the farm.

Have a delicious lunch at Edison's mercantile, **Slough Foods** specializing in serving local and whole foods. Picnic in the outdoor dining area – a great place to watch wildlife.

Travel I-5 toward the Skagit Valley and visit the **Sakuma Brothers Market Stand** in Burlington, the area's premiere berry grower (and seller). Sakuma grows hundreds of acres of strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries and more. Sakuma also grows and harvests teas – the only tea grown in the United States.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS:

Annual Skagit Valley Tulip Festival (April) www.tulipfestival.org

Anacortes Wine Festival (April)
www.anacortes.org

Burlington Dairy Berry Days (June)
www.burlington-chamber.com

Bite of Skagit
www.skagittourism.com

Burlington Harvest Days (September)
www.burlington-chamber.com

Skagit Valley Festival of Family Farms Tour (October)
www.festivaloffamilyfarms.com



Hedland Farms © 2008 Jon Rowley

Go wine tasting at **Challenger Ridge Vineyards & Cellars** in Concrete, established in 2000 and today is the largest Pinot Noir Vineyard in Washington State. Situated on the banks of the Skagit River, you can enjoy wine tasting, bocce ball, horseshoes, wine tours, fishing in the Skagit and roaming the vineyard. The Cascade Trail running through the vineyard offers 23 miles of scenic views that can be explored by bike, walking or horseback. Challenger Ridge is also dog friendly with offerings of dog biscuits and dog wine.

The whole family will love a stop at **Schuh Farms** in Mount Vernon. This family-owned farm offers u-pick flowers, berries, vegetables, pumpkins and tulips. The barn offers local culinary delights including cheeses and seasonal gifts. Seasonal hayrides, petting zoo and kids barrel train ride are also offered.

Learn about Deception Pass, the Bridge and surrounding area on an amazing **Deception Pass Tour** aboard the "Island Whaler." Enjoy the thrill of the fast jet boat through Deception Pass with a knowledgeable interpreter.

End your bountiful journey by dining at **Adrift Restaurant** in Anacortes where chefs transform the bounty from the Skagit Valley farmlands and the surrounding waters of the Straits of Juan de Fuca into superior cuisine, and present it in an atmosphere that will nurture both body and spirit.

LOCAL TIP:

Tune in to 1630 AM:

"InFARMation" Travelers
Agricultural Radio Updates

As you drive through the Skagit Valley tune to 1630 AM on your car radio and learn why local farmers call this fertile valley the "Magic Skagit." Hear crop reports, farm history and special stories about the dozens of crops grown in this special valley. Find out what crops are being harvested or planted right now.

InFARMation is a collaborative project made possible by:

Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, Skagit Valley College Radio Station KVSr 91.7 FM, WDOT, Leadership Skagit, EDASC, WSU Skagit County Extension and many community volunteer announcers.

MORE INFORMATION:

Washington State Tourism

www.experiencewa.com

Skagit Valley Tourism

www.skagittourism.com

Mt Vernon Chamber of Commerce

105 East Kincaid St., Mount Vernon

www.mountvernonchamber.com

(360) 428-8547

Skagit Valley Tulip Festival

www.tulipfestival.org

Annually held April 1- 30

Skagit Valley Wine Association

www.skagitvalleywineries.com

Perkin's Variety Apples

8243 Sims Road, Sedro-Woolley

360-856-6986

www.perkinsvarietyapples.com

Eagle Haven Winery

8243 Sims Road, Sedro-Woolley

360-856-6248

www.eaglehavenwinery.com

Open spring and summer, Mon-Fri.

11am-5pm

Snow Goose Produce Market

15170 Fir Island Road,

Mount Vernon

(360) 445-6908

Open daily, limited business hours

closed in the winter

Hedlin Farms

12052 Chilberg Rd., Mount Vernon

(360) 466-3977

Open Sunday 10am-6pm

Seeds Bistro

623 Morris St., LaConner

(360) 466-3280

www.seedsbistro.com

Open daily 11am-9pm

La Conner Visitor Information

606 Morris Street, La Conner

(360) 466-4778 (888) 642-9284

www.laconnerchamber.com

LaConner Quilt & Textile Museum

703 S. 2nd Street, La Conner

(360) 466-4288

www.laconnerquilts.com

Open Wed.-Sun. 11am-5pm

Nell Thorn Restaurant & Pub

205 Washington St., LaConner

(360) 466-4261

www.nellthorn.com

Open Tues.-Sun. Hours vary by day

Lincoln Theatre

712 S. First St., Mount Vernon

(360) 336-8955

www.lincolnthatre.org

LaConner Channel Lodge

205 N. First Street, LaConner

(360) 466-1500

www.laconnerlodging.com

Calico Cupboard Café & Bakery

720 S. First, LaConner

(360) 466-4451

www.calicocupboardcafe.com

Open Daily 7:30am-4pm

Padilla Bay Dike Trail

11404 Bay View-Edison Rd.,

Mount Vernon

padillabay.gov/recopportunities.asp

Samish Bay Cheese

15115 Bow Hill Rd, Bow

(360) 766-6707

www.samishbaycheese.com

Open Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm

Sat-Sun 12pm-4pm

Rosabella's Garden Bakery

8933 Farm to Market Road, Bow

(360) 766-6360

www.rosabellsgarden.com

Open daily 9am-5pm

BreadFarm

5766 Cains Court, Bow

(360) 766-4065

www.breadfarm.com

Open daily – Hours vary by day

Golden Glen Creamery

15098 Field Rd, Bow

(360) 766-6455

Open daily 10am-4pm

Slough Foods

5766 Cains Court, Bow

(360) 766-4458

www.sloughfood.com

Open Wed - Sun. 11am-6pm

Sakuma Brothers Market Stand

17400 Cook Road, Burlington

(360) 757-6611

Open daily June – October 10am-5pm,

Dec. 1-21.

Challenger Ridge Vineyards & Cellars

43095 Challenger Road, Concrete

(425) 422-6988

www.challengerridge.com

Open Sat-Sun. 11am-5pm

MORE INFORMATION:

Schuh Farms

15565 Memorial Highway,
Mount Vernon
(360) 424-6982
Open April 1-Dec. 22. 9am-6pm

Deception Pass Tour

160 E. Cornet Bay Road, Oak Harbor
(888) 909-8687
www.deceptionpasstours.com
Daily cruises at 11am - 5pm on the hour
Sunset Cruise daily at 6pm.
Closed Wednesdays in June

Adrift Restaurant

510 Commercial Avenue, Anacortes
(360) 588-0653
www.adriftrestaurant.com
Mon-Thurs 8am-9pm
Fri-Sat. 8am-10pm

"Big, ugly, sweet carrots" from Snow Goose Produce Market in Mount Vernon, the heart of the Skagit Valley.



End Note: This itinerary was created based on a culinary / agritourism workshop conducted by Washington State Tourism and Washington State Department of Agriculture with feedback from various destination marketing and agriculture organizations. We apologize if there are any minor inaccuracies. Dates and hours may vary, so we suggest you confirm dates and hours in advance of traveling. Wishing you happy and safe travels.